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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION TO PROVIDE A REPORT  
TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE PROGRESS OF THE HAWAII ELECTRIC  
RELIABILITY ADMINISTRATOR.

1           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator was  
2 established in statute in 2012, which authorizes the Public  
3 Utilities Commission (Commission) to implement an independent  
4 reliability administrator for the State's electric system,  
5 including the development and oversight of reliability standards  
6 and interconnection-related functions; and  
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8           WHEREAS, efficient, timely, and cost-effective  
9 interconnection processes are widely recognized as critical to  
10 maintaining electric system reliability, accelerating the  
11 delivery of renewable energy resources to the grid, and reducing  
12 costs to ratepayers; and  
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14           WHEREAS, during the Regular Session of 2022, concerns were  
15 raised regarding delays associated with the interconnection of  
16 renewable energy projects, as reflected in the findings and  
17 purpose section of S.B. No. 2474 (2022) and in testimony  
18 provided by the Commission to the Legislature; and  
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20           WHEREAS, the Commission has stated in legislative testimony  
21 its commitment to creating a regulatory environment that  
22 improves the interconnection process while mitigating risks to  
23 ratepayers and facilitating achievement of the State's clean  
24 energy and reliability goals; and  
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26           WHEREAS, Act 201, Session Laws of Hawaii 2022 (Act 201),  
27 required the Commission to contract with a qualified consultant  
28 to conduct a comprehensive study on the accessibility of the  
29 State's electric system and procedures for interconnection,  
30 including the timeliness and costs of interconnection for  
31 renewable energy projects and submit a report prior to the  
32 convening of the Regular Session of 2023, and appropriated funds  
33 for that purpose; and



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2 WHEREAS, Act 201 further required that the study include,  
3 among other things:

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- 5 (1) Reliability standards to be established by the
- 6 Commission;
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- 8 (2) Interconnection requirements and procedures;
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- 10 (3) Documentation of delays in the interconnection
- 11 process;
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- 13 (4) Evaluation of interconnection costs and methodologies;
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- 15 (5) An assessment of the Commission's progress in
- 16 implementing the Hawaii Electric Reliability
- 17 Administrator; and
- 18
- 19 (6) Any recommendations for statutory amendments related
- 20 to the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator; and
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22 WHEREAS, while the Commission issued a report to the  
23 Legislature in late 2023 pursuant to Act 201, the report did not  
24 reflect full implementation of the Hawaii Electric Reliability  
25 Administrator as contemplated by Act 201; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, information presented in January, 2026 by the  
28 Hawaii Natural Energy Institute to the Hawaii Energy Policy  
29 Forum documented that over fifty percent of renewable energy  
30 projects have been canceled before achieving commercial  
31 operations, underscoring persistent challenges related to  
32 interconnection, system access, and project execution that  
33 directly affect electric system reliability, resource adequacy,  
34 and the State's renewable energy goals; and

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36 WHEREAS, the Commission has addressed aspects of electric  
37 system reliability in various proceedings, including Docket No.  
38 2021-0024, which established working groups related to  
39 reliability functions; and

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41 WHEREAS, the Commission has indicated that approval of  
42 power purchase agreements may be deferred until completion of



1 interconnection studies, leading to financing and construction  
2 delays and increased costs due to the repeal of federal clean  
3 energy tax incentives, risking the potential termination of  
4 projects, underscoring the importance of efficient  
5 interconnection processes and reliability oversight; and  
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7 WHEREAS, recent Hawaiian Electric Companies' Adequacy of  
8 Supply Reports identify projected capacity shortfalls in 2028 on  
9 the islands of Maui and Hawaii, potentially affecting  
10 reliability and grid failures, and describe reliability  
11 contingency measures that include the continued operation,  
12 conversion, repowering, or life-extension of existing fossil  
13 fuel generation at additional costs, as well as reliance on  
14 temporary fossil fuel generation resources; and  
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16 WHEREAS, in March, 2026, the Hawaiian Electric Companies  
17 filed an application with the Commission seeking approval of an  
18 increase in rate adjustments affecting multiple islands over the  
19 next two years, which the utility represents includes \$45  
20 million of accelerated depreciation for certain power generation  
21 units scheduled for retirement over the next decade, raising  
22 concerns regarding the near-term ratepayer impacts associated  
23 with continued reliance on aging fossil-fuel infrastructure;  
24 now, therefore,  
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third  
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026,  
28 that the Public Utilities Commission is requested to provide a  
29 report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the  
30 convening of the Regular Session of 2027 regarding the progress  
31 the Hawaii Electric Reliability Administrator has made  
32 delivering on the following:  
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- 34 (1) The scope of work contemplated by Act 201, including  
35 resource adequacy;  
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- 37 (2) Reliability standards and the interconnection  
38 workplan; and  
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- 40 (3) The status of the competitive procurement process with  
41 regard to the Commission's contracting of qualified



1 and experienced consultants to perform the duties and  
2 tasks of the Administrator; and  
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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
5 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Chairperson of the  
6 Public Utilities Commission; Director of Commerce and Consumer  
7 Affairs; Director of Business, Economic Development, and  
8 Tourism; Chief Energy Officer; and Executive Director of the  
9 Office of Consumer Protection of the Department of Commerce and  
10 Consumer Affairs.

